(c) and (d) As the Government of Sri Lanka agreed on Voluntary Export Restraint of 2.50 lakh MT, the canalization of Vanaspati including bakery shortening and margarine through NAFED was no longer relevant it was de-notified. No relaxations from quality standards has been given.

Removal of ban on sugar import

†2322. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove the ban on the export of sugar;

(b) if so, from which date this decision will be effective and what will be the quantity of export of sugar; and

(c) whether the prices of sugar are not likely to rise further in the country by this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Sugar export (except restricted export of preferential quota sugar to EU and USA) was prohibited with effect from 04..07.2006 till 31.03.2007. No quantitative restrictions are prescribed for free sugar exports.

(c) Sugar prices and its future projections show a steady decline from April, 2007 onwards.

Export of unmanufactured tobacco to USA

2323. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has drawn up any plan to encourage export of unmanufactured tobacco to U.S.A. from Andhra Pradesh in 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) whether any delegation has been sent to U.S.A. to conclude talks and improve exports of unmanufactured tobacco;

(c) the extent of such tobacco being exported presently to USA in 2006-07;

(d) the trade and other obstacles which face Indian exporters to U.S.A. for this product; and

(e) the discussions held in this regard with U.S. Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.